

SUBSTITUTE MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

January 7, 2014

**CHILD SAFETY AND WELL-BEING IN PRIVATIZED FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES**

Los Angeles County has a large number of foster youth placed in foster homes licensed by the state through private Foster Family Agencies.

As part of the licensing process, the state has granted thousands of waivers to potential foster parents and foster family agency employees who have criminal records – essentially overriding restrictions against an individual with a criminal background to care for and oversee a placed foster child. Currently, the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services has access to only a small sample of the criminal waivers extended to agencies and parents with which they contract.

To provide a better assessment and help ensure safe outcomes, it is critical that the county have complete access to all of the criminal waivers issued to foster parents and employees in the region.

Additionally, to improve the safety of children in foster family agency homes, the state should either greatly increase its monitoring of foster family agencies or contract with counties to perform this function.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office and legislative advocates to seek legislation that will:

1. Enhance state monitoring of foster family agencies, group homes and state licensed foster homes (including both staff and the homes where children are placed); and
2. Provide full access to a database of criminal waivers (and criminal history) issued on behalf of the employees and foster parents of foster family agencies, group homes and state licensed foster homes.

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MDA:mvb

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**MOTION**

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